

AIRCRAFT DISPATCHER
UNIT 5 – COMMUNICATIONS
STUDENT GUIDE

UNIT OBJECTIVES

1. Identify the two basic types of aviation radio frequencies commonly assigned to incidents and their respective purposes.
2. Identify the purpose of a tone assigned to a radio frequency and how tones are assigned.
3. List the sequence of procedures to be performed when requesting an additional aviation frequency.
4. Define the purpose for the Air Guard frequency.
5. List the two key considerations when managing aviation frequencies for multiple fires.
6. List five radio etiquette guidelines.

NOTES

I. BASIC TYPES OF AVIATION RADIO FREQUENCIES

A. FM–Frequency Modulation

- Air-to-ground
- Air-to-dispatch

B. AM–Amplitude Modulation

- Air-to-air
- Helibase air traffic control
- Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT)
- National Airtanker Base Frequency

II. PURPOSES OF TONES

- A. Maximize frequency use
- B. Minimize interference
- C. Manage repeater systems

III. PROCESS FOR REQUESTING ADDITIONAL FREQUENCIES

- A. Determine actual need and usage (AM or FM).
- B. Order additional frequencies on an Aircraft Resource Order through normal dispatch channels.
- C. NICC will place the order with the National Interagency Radio Support Cache (NIRSC).
- D. A frequency coordinator may be assigned during times of extended heavy activity.

IV. WHAT IS AIR GUARD?

- A. Pilot uses to declare an emergency on the aircraft.
- B. Dispatch uses to divert aircraft.
- C. Frequency: 168.625

V. MANAGING FREQUENCIES FOR MULTIPLE FIRES

- A. Ensure frequency separation between the incidents.

- B. During multiple incidents, determine the need for a frequency coordinator.

VI. RADIO ETIQUETTE GUIDELINES

- Speak in clear text, plain language. Do not use codes.

- Keep messages short and to the point. Think of what you need to say before you transmit.

- Stay alert, keep calm, think clearly, act decisively. (Fire Order #10)

- Maintain a sterile cockpit during take-offs and landings.
 - 10- to 15-minute time period

 - Pilot-declared

- “DO NOT SHOUT” into the microphone.

NOTES